



## **Bethesda Green**

4825 Cordell Avenue

Bethesda, MD 20814

240-396-2440

[www.bethesdagreen.org](http://www.bethesdagreen.org)

Non-Profit

Member since April 2012

### **MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**



#### **Environmental Policy Statement**

*Our goal is to minimize our organization's impact and educate members within the organization and the community on reducing their footprint, thus maximizing future generations' ability to live, work, and play in our shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources.*

*Bethesda Green maintains an Environmental Policy manual that addresses Waste Reduction and Recycling policies, Environmentally Responsible Purchasing, Pollution Prevention, Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy, Stormwater Management & Efficient Water Use, and Transportation & Travel.*



#### **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

- *When replacing standard fluorescent bulbs, compact fluorescent light bulbs, LED, or low-mercury fluorescent bulbs are used.*
- *All markers used in the office are non-toxic.*
- *All office paper is post-consumer recycled paper.*
- *Bethesda Green's documents, promotional fliers, brochures, t-shirts and bags, as well as business cards and display signs are printed with soy-based ink, produced by EcoPrint, Green Paper Studio, and T.S. Designs.*



#### **Environmental Restoration or Community Environmental Projects**

*Bethesda Green Neighbors – This community outreach group is geared toward local residents, and is a discussion group about sustainable practices in our community. At our second meeting, we had representatives from 13 neighborhoods in the Bethesda area. The meeting agenda included discussions on excessive tree removal in the area, solar information, updates on the Capital Crescent bike trail/Purple line, Pepco & RainScapes initiatives, and the*

*Montgomery County Climate Protection Plan. The meetings allow neighborhood groups to discuss their own efforts toward sustainable living, share tips & resources, network, and learn more about Bethesda Green's efforts in the community.*

*Master Meter Condo Alliance – Bethesda Green holds a monthly meeting for residents in and representatives of Master-Metered condo buildings. Bethesda Green invites speakers from various green organizations to discuss ways to help condo communities go green. Speakers have included Pepco representatives, the owners of the Compost Crew, a residential compost collection group, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Clean Currents, and more. An example of the impact of these monthly meetings is changes made by the Gaithersburg building Washington Tower. Green improvements include changing all public area lights to energy efficient bulbs, a new energy-efficient elevator system, new high-efficiency window panes, energy efficient water heaters in laundry rooms, and restricted temperature ranges for heating and cooling.*

## **WASTE**



### **Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

*Bethesda Green provides reusable plates, utensils, cups, mugs, condiments, and filtered hot and cold water. Employees print documents only when necessary and use Google and other online share methods to share documents in order to reduce the number of printed copies. When printing, the double-sided default is used to reduce paper use. Trays are to be placed next to each printer for used paper that can be reused as printer or scratch paper. All newsletters and as much marketing materials as possible are sent through email. Copies of newspapers, magazines and journals are limited in printed format.*



### **Recycling**

*Bethesda Green recycles the following:*

- *mixed paper (white paper, colored paper, corrugated cardboard, boxboard, newspapers, inserts, magazines, catalogs, telephone directories, unwanted mail, and all other clean, dry paper)*
- *commingled materials (aluminum cans and foil products, bi-metal cans, glass bottles and jars, and plastic narrow neck bottles)*
- *printer cartridges*
- *electronics*

*Food waste is collected in one specific container, and Compost Crew, a local company, collects the food waste once a week to take to their commercial composting facility.*

*Community Recycling Events – Bethesda Green runs regular e-cycling days, where community members are encouraged to bring in their old electronics to be properly disposed of in a safe and non-polluting manner. At the fall 2012 e-cycling event, Bethesda Green collected more than 45,000 lbs of old TVs, computers, and other electronic devices, diverting them from landfills.*



#### **Hazardous Waste/Toxic Use Reduction**

*Bethesda Green avoids using hazardous products. However, any chemicals or harmful products that must be used are stored inside under cover, in their original containers or properly labeled secondary containers with tight-fitting lids. These products are stored in secure, controlled areas, away from ignition sources, food storage areas, and sewer & storm drains.*

*Natural or low-emission building materials were used to remodel Bethesda Green and will continue to be selected when purchasing building materials in the future. Specifically, 50 gallons of low-VOC paint were used during the remodel, preventing that amount of volatile organic compound paint from being used. Instead of tiles, Bethesda Green uses sustainable cork flooring and recycled carpets.*

### **ENERGY**



#### **Energy Efficiency**

*Currently, Green Switch has installed products to turn off all electronics connected to specific outlets when shutting off the designated light switch, as well as light sensors to turn off the lights when no motion is sensed in the room for a specified period of time. Work spaces have also been arranged to take advantage of natural light. Lights and electronics are turned off when not being used. Signs above light switches remind staff and volunteers to turn off light switches.*

*Elevator access is available for deliveries and handicapped, but otherwise employees and visitors are expected to use the stairs to access Bethesda Green.*

*Incandescent light bulbs have been replaced with compact fluorescent light bulbs or LED lights where appropriate. Additionally, LED, electroluminescent, or photoluminescent exit signs are used.*

*The landlord, Chevy Chase Bank, manages regularly scheduled maintenance on the HVAC and refrigeration systems are conducted.*

*Bethesda Green's green team will continue to estimate the energy and financial savings from converting to more efficient fluorescent lamps of efficient lighting fixtures as the conversions take place.*

## **TRANSPORTATION**



### **Employee Commute**

- *Information on public transportation and car/van pooling is constantly on display at Bethesda Green for staff, volunteers, and visitors. The County's Guaranteed Ride Home and Regional Ride Sharing programs are also promoted. Members of the Sustainable Transportation working group regularly interact with Montgomery County Commuter Services and provide information to distribute and display about commuting alternatives and transit services.*
- *Bethesda Green is enrolled in the Maryland Commuter Tax Credit Program which provides employers with a 50% tax credit / up to \$50 a month for each employee receiving transit benefits.*
- *Bethesda Green has installed a bike rack in front of the Bethesda Green & Capital One bank building to encourage bike riding.*
- *Staff is encouraged to use public transportation, walk and/or bike to work. Of the 6 full time staff members, one drives a hybrid car, two walk, two drive gas-efficient vehicles, and one commutes via bicycle. The two interns walk and use public transportation.*